

EAST AFR. PROT.
12790

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Colonial Office

1914

- April

Last previous Paper.

Hybridisation of Animals

Corres. with H. H. H. Ambd. & report by the
Woodsman and notes & interview reep scheme
submitted by C. J. Jones, an American citizen.

Minutes within.

Registered for record

Partly read 8/14/14 etc

Subsequent Paper.

Q. 2. 4. 114

in G. [?] 30/3/14 [?]

that by some
of country
for the
purpose.

From Mr. Woomers' colorless statement
it will not be gathered that Mr. Jones
is a gentleman of the Buffalo Bill type,
who appeared in a huge sombrero wearing
the "robe" of some wild beast, + with a
large medal suspended by two chains
from his waistcoat. He + his business
manager brought with them a strange
bundle, which proved to be the "robe" of
a cross between a lion + a head of Scotch
cattle. Our attention was called to ~~the~~ its
softness, but Mr. Woomers' fastidious eye
discovered at once that the ~~robe~~ had been
cut down to ~~its~~ give it a suppleness
which the original never possessed. 362
Mr. Jones + his manager were under the
impression that the unwholesome + untidy
country between the Tana + the railway ~~was~~
fitting prime land suitable for their
operations. He was quite clear that he
did not want to do anything on a
small scale. My suggestion that 200,000
acres, worth perhaps £100,000 at current prices,
was a big part was immediately brushed
aside, as his operations were going to
be worth 100 millions to the country.

I see no ~~reference~~ - Mr. Woomers' statement
to Mr. J's assertion that the country
was capable of holding a million settlers

Write to Ambassador as
proposed.

I suspect nearly all his projects
had turned out to be unprofitable.

4. 4. 13

Saturday 28th March 4

Mr. Read

I enclose a memorandum

the subject of Mr. Jones's application
 that it will see what you
 care - I could not send it
 her -

will remember that when
 Mr. Jones that Hybrids had
 never been obtained between
 Wales & England & domestic
 he did not at first agree
 me. I therefore have referred
 question to Dr. Chalmers -
 which at the Zoo so as to be
 of the point as I have
 mentioned it again in my

memo. You will see from her by two enclosed telegrams that it is important questions in relation to correct.

I spent a day & a half in the library & thanks to the librarian's work through the Game of all British possessions in Africa except the Soudan however I am fortunate particular with. I am sure insurmountable difficulties in the way of the proposition as far as we are concerned I believe other powers will come into line. I should regret very much my return to E. A. has to

as I feel that I have been quite long enough already by two weeks that a most important question in relation to report of game hides for sale them raised by the convention provisions & that it has been postponed pending my return. That by which my passage is in the person, leaves London on the 22nd but I need not have myself the 22nd but owing to the holidays my heavy baggage, I cannot take across the continent, will have to be shipped on the 9th April so that if I am to be that about it will be very for me to know definitely on the 9th April, but I shall not have myself before the 22nd.

N.B.—This Form must accompany any inquiry respecting this Telegram.

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and Service Instructions.

Sad Regards to Mr

Charges
to pay

a. b.

Handed
up at

Received
at

Family

2nd class

repeated

Mitchell

MEMORANDUM.

with reference to Mr. C. J. Jones' letter of 18th inst and his subsequent interview with Mr. Head at the Colonial Office at which I was present, the following points appeared to call for consideration.

1. In the first place the proposition which Mr. Jones has put forward is a very large one and I cannot call to mind any part of the E.A.P. in which the area of 200,000 acres of suitable land for which he asks could be found unoccupied and available. It was evident that Mr. Jones was labouring under a delusion on this point and had been entertaining the idea that the Government of the East African Protectorate had unlimited areas of pastoral land to dispose of. It was also evident that Mr. Jones, in spite of the fact that he had visited the East African Protectorate in 1910, had failed to realize that most of the East African tribes e.g. the Masai, Wakamba, Kavirondo, Lumbwa, Nandi and others already own vast numbers of cattle, sheep and goats, and that it is the highest ideal of all East African natives to become stock owners or pastoralists. When therefore Mr. Jones makes the statement in his letter that "it is a well established fact that savage people do not care for domestic or any other kind of animals", he is in reality only exposing a rather profound ignorance of African natives generally, who with few exceptions always value domestic animals very highly. However, the East African pastoral tribes are extremely conservative and do not readily take to new breeds of cattle mainly for the reason that the imported animals are usually more susceptible to the endemic African diseases. For this reason I am afraid Mr. Jones would find that the natives would not show any desire to purchase, although they would no doubt steal with avidity as they already do in the case of other imported stock, those hybrid animals of which he speaks, even if he should produce them. Mr. Jones is under a misapprehension in thinking that any provision of this kind is necessary for East African natives who are already very well off, or that it would be a blessing to

civilized people. On the contrary it is more likely that the Government of East Africa will be confronted before long with the problem of what is to be done with the increase of the native herds now that they are confined in limited reserves, and protected from raids and disease.

2. From a practical point of view Mr. Jones' proposals only appeared to offer one possibility of a really commercially valuable Hybrid animal. He stated that the American bison is immune to tick fever in America, which if not actually the same disease is undoubtedly very closely related to African tick or East Coast fever (piroplasmosis), and I understood him to say that the Hybrid he calls a "catalo" which is a cross between the bison and a breed of Scotch cattle, is also immune to tick fever. If therefore Mr. Jones can produce a Hybrid beast with sufficiently good qualities for the dairy and the butcher and which is also immune to, or powerfully resistant to, African tick fever, and which is also, of course, fertile, he will undoubtedly have produced an animal of the greatest value and importance to the whole of Africa.

3. It is possible that the American bison might produce such a Hybrid when crossed with the domestic cattle of East Africa, some of which show a certain measure of resistance to tick fever. It is also possible that such a Hybrid might be produced by crossing the African buffalo or the Eland with domestic cattle. Experiments have of course been made in various parts of Africa and also in Europe to do this but no success has been achieved up to the present time. However in view of Mr. Jones' well known reputation and successful experiments in hybridising animals in America, it is greatly to be hoped that sufficient encouragement can be given to him to lead to his carrying out some experiments in British East Africa where he would find exceptional opportunities for investigating the question of immunity of Hybrids against tick fever. For East Coast fever is endemic in many parts of the Protectorate.

and he will be able to obtain without much difficulty both buffalo andeland.

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4. It might perhaps be possible to prevail upon Mr. Jones to moderate his demands and commence operations upon a more reasonable scale than 300,000 acres. It would certainly appear that this would be also in his own interests, for I understood that as proposed importing large numbers of such animals as bison, catalo, pigs, sheep and goats and although he may not be aware of the grave risk attached to the importation of foreign animals into Africa it is nevertheless a most dangerous undertaking unless of course expense is a matter of no consideration. For this reason I felt it was only right to warn him at the interview of the risks attached to his proposals and to endeavour to dispell some of his illusions on the subjects of vast areas of fertile but unoccupied land and natives and domestic stock.

5. With regard to the cross hybridizing experiments suggested by Mr. Jones, I must admit that I was not impressed by the likelihood of their success, or their possible advantage. Oryx, hartbeest and giraffe are animals which do not appear to offer prospects in hybridization of anything more than some monstrous creature, unlikely to be either an improvement upon nature or a commercially valuable addition to the farm yard. Such hybrids might also confidently be expected to be unfruitful. With the Zebra, hybrids have I hear been obtained with the horse in German East Africa, but I know nothing as to their utility or immunity to disease. I have myself seen two donkey Zebra hybrids which are still in Nairobi and are now about three years old having been bred by Lord Delamere. They are not such large or serviceable animals as ordinary mules and unless they prove to be immune to the serious African disease known as "horse sickness" or to tick fever I can see no practical value in the hybrid. As to the experiments with sheep I can say very little. The photographs Mr. Jones produced showed nice looking animals but not materially different from other sheep as far as could be judged. These hybrids have not yet

caused any sensation among sheep farmers as far as I am aware and I am inclined to doubt whether the experiments Mr. Jones suggests are likely to result in a more useful or hardy hybrid than already exists in the cross between the Merino and the native sheep of East Africa. As far as the hybrids of sheep and goat are concerned their failure appears to stand confessed by Mr. Jones himself, for he says in his letter " While the Gorisian sheep (goat-Merino-Perisian) may turn out to be of value, the chances are against it as they produce both wool and mohair which ruins the fleece for either wool or hair. "

Mr. Jones gives no details as to the value of his " hog-hybrids " but suggests experiments with East African wild pigs. Swine fever is of course the important question in East Africa and in view of the fact that the wild pigs suffer from the disease themselves, their hybridization does not appear to offer much hope of obtaining any degree of immunity.

6. In conclusion I consider that it is only necessary to read Mr. Jones' letter, in which he uses such expressions as " Think of making pork for the world on grass at reasonable prices, " and to hear him talk, to realize that he is what is known in America as a " Crazy ooper " i.e. an " enthusiastic optimist " but I am afraid also something of a visionary, and I should hardly think his scheme would commend itself to any Government sufficiently to lead to a concession of 200,000 acres being granted for a project which is highly problematical and which even if successful, would not make use of the greater part of such an area for many years. Failure to comply with this request could not reasonably be taken

as a breach of the terms of Article IV of the International Convention for the preservation of wild animals signed at London on 19th May 1900 (Cd. 101)

R. B. Norman
Chief Game Warden.

28th March 1914.

East African Protectorate.

Mr. Harcourt

Probably you will wish Mr Jones in the first instance to have a talk with Mr Read as to East Africa. The question whether he can do anything in Rhodesia is of course for the Chartered Company. You could give him an introduction to the Company.

HAB

Let them see Mr. Read H 20/6/64

Majesty's Government
therewith,

I ventur

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C. O.
12780
M.C.P.
MARCH 1914
London, March 19th, 1914.

Dear Sir: Harcourt

The Ambassador, who is at present in the country for some days, desires me to introduce to you Mr. C. J. Jones, an American citizen, who has been for some years engaged in experiments in hybridising animals and is now desirous of pursuing still further his experiments in Africa.

Mr. Jones has convinced the Ambassador of the importance of his work, and I am consequently instructed to ask you to be good enough to permit him to have an interview with the official of your ministry under whose charge such matters fall, for an explanation in detail of his work and the assistance he desires His Majesty's Government to extend him in connexion therewith.

I venture to enclose a copy of a

letter

letter which Mr. Jones has addressed to the Ambassa-
for on the subject.

Pray believe me, dear Mr. Harcourt,

Sincerely,
Yours,

Harry Campbell

The Right Hon^{ble}
Lewis Harcourt, M.P.,

&c. &c. &c.

Colonial Office, S.W.

Enclosure.

Mr. C. J. Jones to Mr. Page, March 16, 1914.

London, England.
March 16th, 1914.

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To the Honorable
W.H. Page,
Ambassador to England.

Dear Sir,

Referring to a letter from the Honorable W.J. Bryan, Secretary of State at Washington, D.C., U.S.A. to yourself, the Honorable Ambassador to the Court of St. James, England, I desire to say that I have been experimenting in hybridising animals in America the last twenty-five years, as you well know, and have obtained startling results. Among the most valuable animals produced is the Catalo, a cross of the American bison and the Galloway or Scotch polled cattle. They have proven out to be of immense value. They yield a third more meat than their ancestors on the cattle side, while their skins bring fabulous prices. Many of the robes have brought me as much as \$350 each; the flesh adding \$150 more; total \$500 for one animal. The Catalo takes the hardiness of the buffalo and require neither artificial food or shelter. Nature has provided them with a hump of surplus flesh, so if they fail to secure food for weeks at a time, they can draw upon the surplus for subsistence; the same as the camel, zebu (humped ox), Persian sheep and other desert animals.

Other very valuable animals secured are the persiarino, persiacots and persishire sheep, being the Persian broad-tail sheep crossed on the Merino, Cotswolded and Lincolnshire sheep. They all bring a valuable wool; the most delicious meat in the world; hardest sheep known and the lamb skins are of great value for ladies' coats. Many have been sold as breeders in the United States and Canada at from \$100 to \$200 each.

I have succeeded in securing hybrids of the Angora goat, the sheep and hogs. The latter

appear to be a wonderful success. Think of making pork for the world on grass at reasonable prices. While the Gorgonian (Goat-Merino-Persian) sheep may turn out to be of value, the chances are against it, as they produce both wool and mohair, which ruins the fleeces for either wool or hair.

It is a well established fact that savage people do not care for domestic or any other kind of animals. They must be provided with those capable of caring for themselves, so that the natives can turn them into suitable enclosures and leave them for weeks at a time without care. If this cannot be done, there is no use in trying to provide animals for natives, who have never learned to care for them. Therefore, the nearer the animals are to nature, the more certain it will be of growing meat and wool by the uncivilized tribes of any country. Surely the easiest way to provide for the natives of East Africa is to get them as close to nature as possible. By having such animals, as have the natural habits of that locality, and enough domestic blood in them to make them easily handled, they will care for themselves and be a God send to those heathen natives and a blessing to civilized people as well.

I was in British East Africa in 1910 and saw many valuable animals for experimental purposes: particularly the Zebra, Zebu, Eland, three species of hogs, Oryx, Hartebeest, Giraffe, etc. I am very desirous of securing a concession from His Majesty's Government, of a tract of land, say of about 200,000 acres, either in British East Africa or Rhodesia, so as to carry out my experimental work, with a privilege of importing and exporting such animals as I desire for experimental breeding purpose. The most problem is the vital problem at this time. I have the key to its success, in that I have already secured valuable desert animals, that I can transport to such concessions.

If this valuable work appeals to His Majesty's Government I would be pleased to show them some robes of Catalo and photos of hybrid animals on my ranch in New Mexico, U.S.A. and go into details regarding the concession and the transporting of animals to and from Africa.

Very respectfully yours,
C.J. JONES.

York Hotel, Albemarle St.,
London.

12700

Downing Street,

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April, 1914.

My dear Antanas

I received Mr. Laughlin's letter of the 19th of March, written by your desire, introducing Mr. C. J. Jones, an American citizen, who has been engaged for some years in experiments in hybridising animals. I very gladly arranged for Mr. Jones to have a personal interview with the Head of the East African Department in the Colonial Office, that department being the one concerned with the territory in which Mr. Jones desires to pursue his experiments in Africa.

Mr. Head, the Head of the Department in question, reports to me that he and the Chief Game Warden of the East Africa Protectorate, who happens

to